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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **February 2015**

Vaca Valley Radio Club Meeting Notes of Thur. 8 Jan., 2Ø15

Our newly elected Vice President, Kim Ware (KI6JNX), started off the new year by calling the January, 2Ø15, general membership meeting of the Vaca Valley Radio Club to order at 1925 hours.

Our Treasurer, Bob (K6HEW), said that he *HAD* a report ready, but the flood of January renewals and donations just prior to the start of the meeting totally destroyed any realistic totals he could have presented, so… we'll just have to wait until Feb., to get the up-to-date report on the financial health of the club finances.
All that he could say for sure was that the "Repeater Fund" was sending $252 to our repeater manager – Skipp Mays - to help pay the maintenance bills.

OLD BUSINESS: None addressed.

NEW BUSINESS: Our former Pres., Mike Vieria (W6MAV), shared that he had an upcoming meeting with Chief Woods, from the Vine St. fire station, and that he was hoping to bring up the subject of our possibly returning to the Vine St. station for our meetings, hoping maybe by Fall. He'd share more at the Feb. meeting.

Kim RE-introduced the subject of the "*swap-meet*": There are still a LOT of questions that need to be answered, ie.: just how big do we want to make this event? Would the Elmira station parking lot work when we consider participants, and parking, and visitors, and??? Do any of the members know of an alternate site – maybe one with more parking available? What about charging a "table-fee" to sellers? What about holding an **additional** V.E. session during the meet? Jerry (KD6WKY) advised the board and membership that to do the VE session, the date for the swap-meet would have to be firm and "***in concrete***" far enough in advance so that the appropriate tests and materials could be ordered from ARRL — about 1 ½ months in advance.

Folks – if we really want to make this event happen, we also need to consider other major events already occurring through out the year – i.e. Field Day in June; CQP in Aug.; that there are already two scheduled VE sessions this year; and we also need to remember that there is virtually NO club activity during the "*Summer break*".

Field Day – 2Ø15: Jerry (KD6WKY), reminded everyone that we need to start thinking – now - about this annual event in June. We can't wait until the week before and then panic. A member asked whether we might ask permission to set up again this year at Jorge and Maria's fantastic property in N. Vacaville. Jerry said that he'd approach them about the possibility, and let us know what he finds out.

VE Sessions: Jerry (KD6WKY) Reminded the membership that there are two VE sessions **already scheduled** for 2015: one on the first Saturday in June, and one on the first Saturday in December, at Jerry's office in Fairfield. If you would like to upgrade, or know of anyone planning to test / upgrade – now's the time to get serious about the books and plan to make the session. The test is local, and you'll be amongst friends!

Activity for the Feb. meeting: Kim announced that he was going to provide a "*How to solder connectors*" inter-active session for the Feb. meeting, so, if you'd like to learn how to solder, or just have a connector that needs to be soldered, plan on attending!

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Wait! I'll remember in a minute

JT65-HF QSO's

Howdy Guys!

Not that you probably care, but thus far, I have 41 QSO's using the JT65-HF program towards my W.A.S. award

For the DX side of things, all I have this far is: China, Japan (many - too many!), Russia & Asiatic Russia (again, mucho QSO's!), South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, Ukraine, Cuba, Costa Rica, Canary Islands and out of all of the continents, the South Pole. I still have a few pages left to check for a grand total although the "grand" total is still far off in the distance.

I'm buying a slightly used Yaesu FT-950 vs. shelling out my hard earned $$$ for either the FTDX-1200 or the FTDX-3000. Why? Despite the rave reviews thus far for either radio, I think I'll get more "bang" for the buck with the FT-950 as it seems the 950 rig has plenty to offer and one can connect many types of devices to it either internally or externally. It's bad enough I have to deal with the touch screen for banking or at the supermarket and both newer radio have this feature although maybe only the FTDX-3000 having it. The 1200 and the 3000 are basically what a 950 and a 2000 radio once were with a few more "whistles & bells" thrown into the newer radio along with a higher price tag. The FT-950 rig I am buying from a dealer back east is a 2010 model for $995.00. The FT-450 rig I bought a few years ago was a slightly used rig from a ham in southern CA via the QTH website. It's been a good rig and I do not plan on ridding myself of it anytime soon. My plans are to use the 450 rig out in the field and leave the 950 rig inside the QTH. I have another G5RV that is a spare as well as an Alpha Delta DX-LB+ antenna along with a Buddi Stick and the 2 element Diamond Yagi that are likely to be used out in the field with the 450 rig. I might look into buying that DC powered portable rotator I mentioned before!

But I am looking at the purchase of a new spider beam for just 5 bands only. I'm hoping to clear out more of what I no longer need inside of my QTH non-living area so I can work towards building a 6 meter 4 element Yagi x 2 of them so I can stack them. First the new roof and then I will install these Yagi's and the other VHF/UHF Yagi's I already have here so I can finally take part in some of the radio contests. The dirt cheap G5RV works OK, but it is limited directionally which is why I'm looking at the purchase of the spider beam.

The FT-950 rig can be set up so that one RF connection point can be for the TX antenna and the other RF connection for a receive antenna in which I could designate the G5RV for that purpose except when I need it for either the 40, 60 or 80 meter bands. I'd try for the 160 meter band, but my QTH lacks in available acreage! The cost for the spider beam is slightly more than what Jerry, KD6WKY uses as far as to his Cushcraft MA-5B antenna. But from the eHam.net reviews I've read for the brand of spider beam, I don't think I'll be spending more for it as compared to the Cushcraft type. The company that sells it states it's a "plug-n-play" model and that no tuning is needed. But I'll likely continue the practice of tuning the band & frequency on which I want to operate on for the best QSO's I can get!

Hopefully in the month of February, I can embark on the RTTY mode since the WMR RIGblaster Advantage I purchased seems to do a much better job than the Tigertronics SignaLink USB interface. While the TX knob on the WMR device is sensitive, it is by far less sensitive than the SignaLink device because I am able to adjust my TX signal for a clean signal w/o losing the output power unlike with the SignaLink device that had a very touchy & sensitive TX knob that when one tried adjusting it for a clean signal, the output power was lost. What I don't know at the moment is can I still use the SignaLink device with the soon-to-be acquired FT-950 rig? Or will this "new" rig have the same data port sensitivity as the FT-450 rig?

Next up will be a portable low dB generator 2000 watt unit

73, Marcus, KI6WDX

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013
ELECTED OFFICERS
President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KI6JNX
Secretary: Skip, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB
APPOINTED POSITIONS
Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.
W. C. Fields

Obama Installs Antenna; Disbands Park Service

By WBØRUR, on the scene

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a move that surprised Washington insiders, President Barack Obama has issued an executive order immediately disbanding the Federal Park Service (FPS), the agency responsible for maintaining the country's parks and forests.

The FPS drew fire from Obama, a newly licensed ham radio operator *(see Ham Hijinks story)*, after it blocked the Chief Executive's attempt to erect a G5RV HF antenna atop the White House.

"As your leader, it is my job to remove obstacles which face the American people in their daily lives and stand in their way of liberty and happiness. If government regulations say I can't hang a dipole on top of my house, then I must act accordingly," said Obama in a hastily called mid-morning news conference.

Obama told reporters his extension ladder was leaning against the South Portico and he was headed up with coax and G5RV tied to his belt, when stopped by a FPS field agent.

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"The agent said the White House grounds are considered a federal park and I would need approvals from Congress to set up my transmitting apparatus," said Obama.

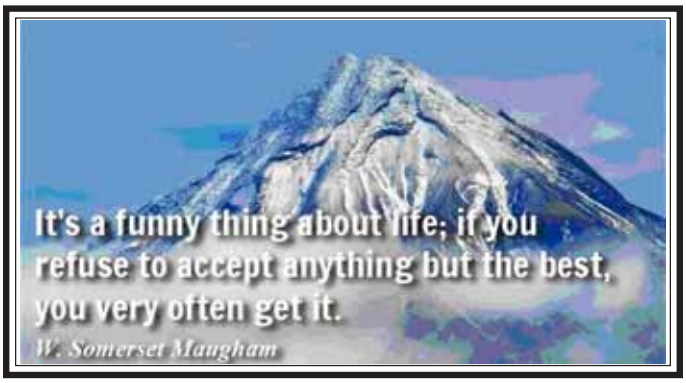
Obama hoped to participate in the weekend's sideband contest, but was unable to get on the air in time due to the agent's persistence.

Former spokesman of the Federal Park Service, Pontus "Smokey" Blumenthal says regulations regarding antenna erections in parks are clear, but the agent "probably should have looked the other way on this one."

The President has established his ham radio "shack" on the top floor of the White House in the space formerly used to house Dwight Eisenhower's orchid collection.

After getting his antenna up and coax routed, Obama says his next project is creating a state-by-state online marketplace to assist hams needing to purchase radio gear. He exclaims: "WE WILL CALL IT OHAMACARE! IT WILL BE GREAT!"

Look for the President daily on the 75 meter "Washington Insiders" net. (Net control station for the month is John Boehner; check his QRZ page for times and frequencies.)



THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE BIT BUCKET

I'll bet you didn't even know you had a "710 part" on you car.

Well you do, and leave it to a blond to find it.

A few days ago I was chatting with a friend who works at a local garage when a blonde came in and asked for a seven-hundred- ten. We all looked at each other and another customer asked, 'What is a seven-hundred- ten?' She replied, 'You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine, I lost it and need a new one..'

She didn't know exactly what it was, but the piece had always been there.

My friend gave her a piece of paper and a pen and asked her to draw what the piece looked like. She drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote "710".

He then took her over to a car just like hers that had the hood up and asked: 'is there a "710 part" on this car?'. She pointed and said, 'Yes, it's right there!' It was all we could do to not laugh at her.

So, if you're not sure what a "710 part" is, see picture on page 6.

Thanks to Skip, AF6HC

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Monthly 10M net: The idea was floated of holding a once-a-month HF net on 10M, after the VVRC weekly 2M net. Low power 10M would work for everyone because even Technician rated members can participate in that band if they have HF gear.

VVRC NCS Schedule: A check with the NCS' for the weekly VVRC net provided the following schedule:

1st. Tue. = Jerry (KJ6SCC)
2nd. Tue. = Richard (KJ6MIB)
3rd. Tue. = Frank (KJ6RWQ)
4th. Tue. = Jerry (KD6WKY)
5th. Tue. = Bob (K6HEW)

The final event of the evening was the drawing, which was won by none-other than……. **Chris Jones (KD7TQO)!!.** Way to go Chris!!!!!

The meeting was then adjourned at 2Ø3Ø hr.

Respectfully submitted,
"Skip" Lawson – AF6HC

Confused Protestors Picket Dayton Hamfest, Then Leave

And you only "thought" protestors are uninformed

By WBØRUR, on the scene

DAYTON, Ohio – In what's being called confusing and totally unexpected, about a dozen protestors showed up this morning at the 2013 Dayton Hamfest.

Confused protestors at Hamvention.

People Advancing The Humane Treatment of Animals (PATHTA) protested in front of Dayton's Hara Arena, advocating against alleged unsafe hog farming, growing and butchering practices.

"We will make these mad men stop!" exclaimed group leader Paula Smith-Taylor of Westchester, Vermont. "The unstoppable slaughter of hogs for food and profit must end!"

A group of ham radio operators headed to the "Peanut Whistle Transmitters" exhibit took a moment to visit with Smith-Taylor.

"She seemed genuinely surprised at what 'ham radio' actually meant," says octogenarian Vince Bascoe of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"After I explained it to her, she told the group to get back into her VW microbus for their next assignment."

"We're headed to Arkansas!" Smith-Taylor exclaimed as the van left the hamfest parking lot.

"We hear there's fighting hogs there! We must stop the insanity!"

Editor's Note: The Ohio Pork Producers are offering a fantastic bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich for $7.99 with drink. They are located at Pavilion 1B at Hara Arena. The funds raised go to assist with the FCC's "one kilohertz at a time" project.

You Might Be a Ham If...

The following was sent to one of the mailing lists by N7TEK and appears to have originated with Doug, W0WSP, in Portland, Tennessee.

You might be a ham operator if:

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is).
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.

GUN CONTROL FOR SENIORS:

When I got ready to pay for my purchases of gunpowder and bullets, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the National Rifle Association about gun control wackos, I did as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the scanner.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make their instructions a little clearer for seniors. I still don't think I look that bad.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

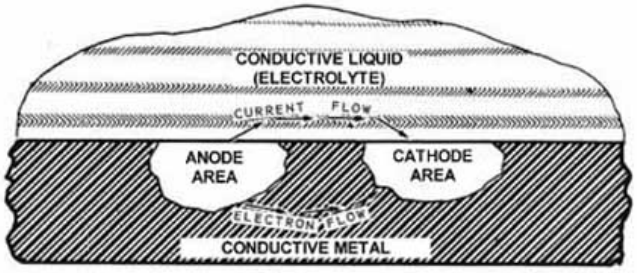
1st week of month-Jerry; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Frank; KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Jerry; KD6WKY
On months with 5 weeks-Bob; K6HEW

Thwarting Corrosion

Regular application of corrosion preventive compounds can protect the parts of our antennas & equipment

By Mike Busch , Columnist | June 8, 2005

What Exactly Is Corrosion?



Corrosion cell, showing the four conditions that must exist for corrosion to occur.

Corrosion is the destructive attack of metal by electrochemical reaction to the surrounding environment. In order for corrosion to occur, four conditions must be present:

1. A metal that will give up electrons ("anode");
2. A dissimilar metal that will accept electrons ("cathode");
3. An electrical connection between the two metals (typically metal-to-metal contact); and
4. A conductive liquid ("electrolyte"), typically condensation (H2O) made conductive by the addition of a bit of salt, acid, or other chemical impurities.

If you think this sounds a lot like the description of a battery, you're exactly right. A battery produces electricity through controlled corrosion of metallic electrodes (cathode and anode) immersed in an electrolyte (acid or alkali), and continues to do so until the anode is completely corroded.

Corrosion is quite useful when it occurs in a battery, of course — but in an airframe or engine, it's clearly a very bad thing.

The best-known example of corrosion is the rusting of iron and steel; but perhaps of even greater concern to aircraft owners is the corrosion of the aluminum alloys that make up the majority of our airframes.

Why Metals Corrode

Pure aluminum is highly resistant to corrosion, because on exposure to air it forms a very thin (virtually invisible) protective layer of aluminum oxide. Aluminum oxide doesn't conduct electricity, so once this tough protective layer forms over the surface of the metal,

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corrosion is effectively blocked.

Unfortunately, pure aluminum is too soft to be useful as a structural material. Antennas and Misc equipments are made of various high-strength aluminum alloys, which consist of mostly aluminum plus small amounts of other metals that improve the strength and toughness of the material.

You see, aluminum is substantially more anodic (i.e., willing to give up electrons) than copper (see the Galvanic Table below). So put these two metals in contact (as they are in 2024 alloy), add some condensation (electrolyte), and voila! — you have all the necessary conditions for corrosion.

The key to preventing corrosion of aluminum is Corrosion occurs where dissimilar metals come into contact — for example, where steel screws are used to fasten aluminum parts, or where a stainless steel is riveted to aluminum structural members. This is known as "galvanic corrosion" or "dissimilar-metals corrosion."

Besides sealing out electrolytes, galvanic corrosion can be prevented by carefully selecting the kinds of metal that are permitted to come into contact with one another.

For instance, steel fasteners (screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.) are commonly made compatible with aluminum by electroplating them with a thin layer of metallic

Cadmium — such fasteners are referred to as "cad-plated." Cadmium is more anodic than either steel or 2024 aluminum alloy, and so protects them from corrosion.

Zinc is even more anodic than cadmium, and steel parts are often plated with zinc (so-called "galvanized steel") to protect them from corrosion.

REMINDER
The February meeting at the Elmira Firehouse is February 12-Board Meeting: 7PM and General Meeting:7:30PM

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143